

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Attachment #3

86 b

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON

August 4, 1962

JOINT USIA-CIA MEMORANDUM FOR:

Brigadier General Edward G. Lansdale

In a memorandum dated May 23, 1962, from Edward R. Murrow to Brigadier General Edward G. Lansdale, USIA recommended a Radio Free Europe type approach utilizing either: the present facilities of Radio Swan, facilities located in Florida, one of the Caribbean Islands, or a floating transmitter. Since that time CIA has developed a Radio Free Europe type project to be operated from facilities located in Florida. USIA has not as yet seen this plan.

USIA and CIA have been asked to comment on the future capabilities of medium-wave broadcasting from Radio Swan -- Radio Americas. It is our present feeling that no new medium-wave capability should be developed from Radio Swan. Our reasons are as follows:

1. Radio Swan, a 50 kilowatt medium-wave station is operating at maximum technical capability now. In order to improve its technical capability, an entirely new facility would have to be constructed.
2. There are better locations than Swan Island for such new facilities. USIA's memorandum of August 3, 1962, addressed to you points out, for example, that Nassau, Dominican Republic, Cayman Island-Jamaica, Navassa Island, Nicaragua, Honduras are all better locations. Florida, of course, is too.
3. The logistics involved in supplying Swan Island are extremely expensive and difficult. The construction of a new facility would involve building a pier, developing off-shore fueling points and constructing an entirely new power supply. The Island is so small that the radiated power from new transmitters would create a problem of mutual interference with necessary receiving facilities.

Evidence Declassified/Released on 12-28-88
(FBS-421) under provisions of E.O. 13526
by N. Menan, National Security Council

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

4. Radio Swan is, in our opinion, inextricably linked with the failure of the April 17, 1961 invasion attempt. Its credibility is low. A new Radio Free Europe type sponsorship would always be tarred by past associations.

5. We do not believe that a change in the frequency would hide its identity. A change of frequency would be reported as a matter of course in the Free World. It certainly would draw continuing attention from Castro propagandists.

6. We do not believe that a change in name would materially improve the credibility of the station. Although currently called Radio Americas, the evidence from refugees indicates that Cuban listenership still regards the facility as Radio Swan.

(signed)

Donald M. Wilson
Deputy Director
USIA

Cleared by: CIA - Mr. Seymour Bolten (signed)

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~UNCLASSIFIED~~